

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND
PA/PRESS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR

SECDEF WASHDC 0000
JCS WASHDC 0000
CIA WASHDC 0000
USICA WASHDC
NSC WASHDC 0000
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS POUCH

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD; TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A/

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JUNE 22, 1978

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EX-CERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR JUNE 22. FYI ONLY, OFFICER PRESENT TODAY WAS HODDING CARTER.

Q. PRESIDENT CARTER TOLD THE VISITING EGYPTIAN PARLIAMEN-TARY DELEGATION THAT HE WAS QUITE HAPPY ABOUT PRESIDENT UNCLASSIFIED

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SADAT'S REACTION TO THE ISRAELI ACTION. IT SEEMS TO LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN, ETCETERA. IN OTHER WORDS, PRAISE FOR EGYPT AGAIN. AND THERE IS A STORY IN THE NEW YORK TIMES TODAY.

IS THE TIMES CORRECT THAT THE SECRETARY TOLD MEMBERS OF CONGRESS THAT ISRAEL SHOWED NO FLEXIBILITY? SECONDLY, HAS THE UNITED STATES ASKED EGYPT FOR A PROPOSAL OF ITS OWN. THIRD, ARE THERE ANY REAL DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN THE EGYPTIAN AND THE AMERICAN VIEW OF WHAT THE WEST BANK AND THE REST OF THE MIDDLE EAST SHOULD LOOK LIKE?

A. QUESTION NUMBER ONE, INsofar AS WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID, I DON'T KNOW. IN ANY CASE, THE PLACE TO ASK THAT QUESTION WOULD BE THE WHITE HOUSE.

QUESTION NUMBER TWO, WE, AS I SAID YESTERDAY, ARE IN ACTIVE DISCUSSION WITH THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS ABOUT ITS IDEAS FOR HOW TO DEAL WITH ISSUES RELATING TO THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. OBVIOUSLY THE POINT OF THESE DISCUSSIONS IS TO DEVELOP IDEAS WHICH COULD BE INTRODUCED INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS. WHILE THE DISCUSSIONS CONTINUE AS THEY ARE CONTINUING, I AM IN NO POSITION TO SUGGEST IN WHAT FORM THE IDEAS MAY EMERGE BEYOND REPEAT-ING THAT WE FIND THE DISCUSSIONS USEFUL.

BUT I ALSO WANT TO REPEAT AND TO STRESS, AS I DID YESTERDAY,

THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF THE FORMAL STATEMENT, WHICH IS THAT WE ARE CONSULTING WITH BOTH ISRAEL AND EGYPT AS TO THE NEXT STEPS WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN TO HELP THE PARTIES RESUME NEGOTIATIONS.

ON YOUR THIRD QUESTION, I THINK THAT OUR PARTICULAR VIEWS ON THE MIDDLE EASTERN SITUATION HAVE BEEN OUTLINED IN A NUMBER OF PLACES. THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS NOTED IN THE PAST THAT WE HAVE FOUND POSITIONS AMONG ALL THE PAR-
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TIES WITH WHICH WE COULD AGREE AND THAT WE HAVE FOUND TIMES WITH WHICH WE DISAGREED WITH VARIOUS POSITIONS PUT FORWARD BY ALL THE PARTIES.

I REALLY AM NOT GOING TO DO A TEXTUAL ANALYSIS ON OURS, COMPARATIVE, POINT BY POINT. I WOULD SAY WHAT WE ARE MOST INTERESTED IN IN ANY CASE IS NOT WHETHER WE AGREE PARTICULARLY WITH ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER, BUT IN HELPING BOTH SIDES COME TO AN AGREEMENT WITH EACH OTHER.

Q. DOES THE SECRETARY THINK ISRAEL IS INFLEXIBLE?

A. I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO CHARACTERIZATION BEYOND THE WORD "REGRET" YESTERDAY ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Q. THE REASON I AM TRYING TO MATCH US POLICY AGAINST EGYPTIAN POLICY IS BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT HAS AGAIN COMPLIMENTED, ENDORSED, PRAISED, EGYPT. NOW, AS I HAVE READ US STATEMENTS LATELY, THERE ARE POINTS OF DISAGREEMENT: SPECIFICALLY ONE THAT I CAN THINK OF IS THAT SADAT HAS ASKED FOR EVERY INCH OF TERRITORY TO BE RELINQUISHED BY ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES SAYS THAT IS NOT OUR READING OF 242. SO, WHAT I AM ASKING YOU IS WHETHER OUR READING

OF 242 OR OUR POLICY HAS CHANGED SO THAT NOW IT COINCIDES WITH SADAT'S?

A. NO. TO BEGIN WITH, OUR POLICY HASN'T CHANGED ON THE QUESTION OF 242, AS HAS BEEN ENUNCIATED SEVERAL TIMES. BUT I HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY WITH WHATEVER THE PRESIDENT SAID THIS MORNING. I, IN FACT, DID SEE THE WIRE SERVICE REPORT. I DON'T KNOW IN WHAT CONTEXT HE WAS SAYING IT.
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IF THE CONTEXT IS WHAT I THINK IT WAS, I THINK HE WAS RATHER SUGGESTING THAT HE WAS HAPPY THAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAS LEFT THE CLEAR STATEMENT THAT HE WANTS NEGOTIATIONS TO CONTINUE - THAT IS, HE WANTS THE PROCESS TO

CONTINUE. I THINK THAT WAS IT. BUT I WOULD NOT TRY TO INTERPRET THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT SINCE I DON'T HAVE IT IN FRONT OF ME.

Q. ON POINT NUMBER TWO, WE ALL KNOW THAT WE HAVE BEEN INVITING SUGGESTIONS, IDEAS. THE TIMES IS RATHER SPECIFIC. IT TALKS ABOUT A FORMAL PROPOSAL FROM EGYPT, THAT WE NOW WANT EGYPT TO PUT ON THE TABLE -- SOMETHING EGYPT HASN'T DONE UNTIL NOW -- AND THAT IS A FORMAL PROPOSAL. ISRAEL HAS MADE A FORMAL PROPOSAL.

I KNOW YOU HAVE IDEAS, YOU HAVE IDEAS FROM LOTS OF PARTIES. BUT IS THE UNITED STATES ASKING EGYPT NOW TO MAKE A FORMAL PROPOSAL?

A. LET ME REPEAT THEN WHAT IS, IN EFFECT, A NO ANSWER TO YOU. THAT IS, THAT WHILE WE ARE IN THE DISCUSSION STAGE, I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO PREDICT THE OUTCOME OF IT NOR AM I GOING TO BE ABLE TO ITEMIZE WHAT IT IS THAT WE ARE DISCUSSING. I, IN ANY CASE, AM DEFINITELY NOT AUTHORIZED TO CHARACTERIZE WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING WITH THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT.

Q. HODDING, IN YOUR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ISRAELIS OVER THE PAST WEEK, SINCE SUNDAY, COULD YOU APPLY THE SAME ADJECTIVE "USEFUL" TO THOSE? YOU HAVE SAID THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN THESE ACTIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH EGYPT AND ISRAEL. YOU HAVE DESCRIBED THOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EGYPTIANS AS USEFUL. THE QUESTION IS: CAN YOU USE THE SAME ADJECTIVE ON THE ISRAELI CONSULTATIONS?

A. I DON'T HAVE AN ADJECTIVE TO GIVE YOU, AND I DON'T UNCLASSIFIED

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WANT TO TRY TO PULL ONE OUT. IF WE WERE NOT PLAYING IN THIS PARTICULAR BALLPARK AND WE WERE JUST TALKING LIKE NORMAL HUMAN BEINGS AND THERE WAS NOT GOING TO BE A CODE WORD THAT YOU WOULD FASTEN UPON, I WOULD BE HAPPY TO

DESCRIBE THEM IN MANY WAYS. SINCE WE ALL KNOW THESE WORDS CARRY CERTAIN FREIGHT WHICH GOES BEYOND THE NORMAL DICTIONARY MEANING, I WOULD RATHER NOT TRY TO VOLUNTEER ONE. I WILL JUST SEE WHAT WE WILL DO. I WILL SEE IF I HAVE A CHARACTERIZATION.

Q. WERE THEY ALL NEGATIVE? DO THEY HAVE ANY POSITIVE ELEMENTS?

A. I THINK THAT WE HAVE ALWAYS FOUND THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PARTIES TO BE USEFUL IN THE PROCESS OF MOVING TOWARD A SETTLEMENT AND SOME ARE MORE USEFUL THAN OTHERS. I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY DESCRIPTION BEYOND THAT.

Q. CAN YOU CLEAR UP A LITTLE BIT OF CONFUSION THAT HAS BEEN GENERATED TO SOME EXTENT BY THE ISRAELIS IN THE LAST 48 HOURS? THEY HAVE SAID THAT THEY PUT THREE VERY SPECIFIC QUESTIONS THROUGH US TO THE EGYPTIANS AND THAT THE FAILURE TO RESPOND TO THOSE QUESTIONS OR THE FAILURE AT LEAST OF THE UNITED STATES TO PASS THOSE RESPONSES TO ISRAEL CONTRIBUTED TO THE LACK OR DIDN'T HELP REASSURE THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IN REACHING THEIR CONCLUSIONS. THE THREE QUESTIONS WERE: DOES EGYPT ACCEPT THE ASWAN FORMULATION? DOES EGYPT ACCEPT THE AMERICAN INTERPRETATION OF 242 REGARDING MODIFICATIONS OF TERRITORY? IS EGYPT WILLING TO JOIN THE PEACE TALKS -- RESUME THE PEACE TALKS EVEN IF HUSSEIN DOES NOT? NOW, CAN YOU CLARIFY WHETHER, IN FACT, THE UNITED STATES TOOK THOSE QUESTIONS TO EGYPT? DID YOU UNCLASSIFIED

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GET RESPONSES?

ONE OF THE THINGS THE ISRAELIS ARE LEADING SOME OF US TO BELIEVE IS THAT THE RESPONSES WERE NEGATIVE AND, THEREFORE, THEY WERE NOT PASSED ON TO THE ISRAELIS; THAT THE EGYPTIANS CONTINUE TO CLING TO THEIR POSITIONS ON EVERY INCH OF TERRITORY ON 242, FULL PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION AS OPPOSED TO THE ASWAN FORMULATION AND NO ANSWER ON THE THIRD PART ABOUT WILLINGNESS TO RESUME THE PEACE TALKS.

I TRIED TO BE VERY SPECIFIC --

A. I WOULD NOTE THAT I SAW ON FBIS THIS MORNING A FORMULATION OF THOSE THREE QUESTIONS PUT IN FAINTLY DIFFERENT FASHION. THAT SAME SOURCE IN THE NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN ISRAEL SAID THAT TWO OF THOSE THREE QUESTIONS WERE DIFFERENT FROM THE WAY YOU JUST FORMULATED THEM.

BUT BE THAT AS IT MAY, THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION IS THAT I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO DISCUSS WHAT COMMUNICATIONS

WE DO OR DON'T CARRY BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN TWO OTHER PARTIES; THAT IF ISRAEL OR EGYPT WISHES TO SPEAK TO THOSE WE CAN; AND THAT THERE IS NO COMPARISON BETWEEN QUESTIONS THAT WE ASK FOR OUR OWN SAKE AND THE ROLE WE PLAY AS A COMMUNICATOR AND A FACILITATOR FOR OTHERS. AND I AM JUST SIMPLY NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO DISCUSS IT.

Q. IS IT THE VIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATION THAT IT IS NOW UP TO EGYPT TO COME UP WITH SOME CONCRETE ANSWERS AS A RESULT OF THE FACT THAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE NOT BEEN RESPONSIVE TO U.S. QUESTIONS ON THE WEST BANK?

A. NO. I DON'T WANT TO SAY A BURDEN FALLS UPON ONE NATION OR ANOTHER. WE ARE CONSULTING WITH BOTH NATIONS ON WHAT

NEXT STEPS MIGHT BE TAKEN TO HELP GET THE NEGOTIATIONS
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GOING AGAIN AND I DO NOT WANT TO SAY THAT THE WATER IS
BEING CARRIED BY ONE PERSON OR THE OTHER.

Q. IS IT THE AMERICAN VIEW THAT AN EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL
WOULD CHANGE THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST BETWEEN THE
TWO OF THEM?

A. THE REASON WE ARE DISCUSSING THESE ENTIRE SET OF
PROBLEMS WITH BOTH PARTIES IS OBVIOUSLY IN HOPES THAT AN
APPROACH CAN BE FOUND WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE PARTIES TO
RESUME NEGOTIATIONS. THAT IS WHY WE ARE DOING IT.

Q. THE QUESTIONS YOU ASKED THE ISRAELI CABINET THAT WERE
NOT ANSWERED TO YOUR SATISFACTION, WAS THAT A REQUEST FOR
A NEW ISRAELI PROPOSAL?

A. THAT WAS A REQUEST BASED UPON THE IDEAS WHICH HAVE BEEN
OUTLINED TO US BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND WE WERE ASKING,
IN EFFECT, FOR FURTHER CLARITY ON SOME OF THE POINTS THAT
WERE RAISED ON THAT AS TO -- WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT THE
TWO QUESTIONS WERE. AS WE SAID, IT WAS A USEFUL BASIS
FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATION.

Q. THE ANSWER THAT THE ISRAELIS GAVE, ALTHOUGH IT MAY
NOT BE SATISFACTORY TO THE UNITED STATES, IS PERFECTLY
CONSISTENT WITH EVERYTHING THAT THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT HAS
SAID FROM THE BEGINNING, IN FACT, EVERYTHING THAT THE
PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF HAS SAID ABOUT THE WEST BANK FOR
THE PAST 30 YEARS. DO YOU THINK, THEREFORE, IN LIGHT OF
THIS CONSISTENT LINE WHICH APPEARS TO BE UNSATISFACTORY
TO THE UNITED STATES, THAT A WEST BANK SOLUTION IS POSSI-
BLE WITH THE PRESENT ISRAELI GOVERNMENT?

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A. YES.

Q. WHAT GIVES YOU THAT BASIS FOR HOPE?

A. I WILL SIMPLY SAY THAT WE BELIEVE THAT THE INTEREST
OF ISRAEL IS IN A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT -- AND OF THE
OTHER PARTIES AS WELL -- AND THAT INTEREST IS OF SUCH
IMPORTANCE THAT REASONABLE MEN WHO SHARE IT SHOULD BE
ABLE TO FIND A FORMULA WHICH WILL BRIDGE DIFFERENCES. WE
ARE CONTINUING TO TRY TO ASSIST IN FINDING SUCH A FORMULA.

Q. HAS THIS ADMINISTRATION BEEN TALKING TO ANY REPRE-

SENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIANS? AND IF NOT, WHAT WOULD BE REQUIRED FROM THE PALESTINIANS TO BE TALKED TO, SINCE THE WHOLE PROCESS IS TO DETERMINE THEIR FUTURE?

A. I THINK THAT IS A VARIATION ON SOME QUESTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ASKED IN THE PAST. BUT TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION DIRECTLY: THERE HAVE NOT BEEN ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PALESTINIANS THAT I KNOW OF IN RECENT MONTHS. IN FACT, THE LAST SORT OF SEMI-OFFICIAL CONTACT I CAN REMEMBER WAS AT A PARTY IN ISRAEL PERHAPS A YEAR AGO -- NOT QUITE A YEAR AGO.

THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR NOTIONS ON THIS AND A DECLARATION ON THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO ASWAN. AS FAR AS "PARTICIPATING" IN THE COURSE OF THEIR OWN FUTURE -- I DON'T HAVE THE EXACT PHRASE IN FRONT OF ME -- WE HAVE NOT BEEN TALKING TO THE PALESTINIANS.

Q. SUPPOSE THE PALESTINIANS, THE PLO, TOMORROW MORNING SAYS, "OK, I'LL ACCEPT 242?"

A. I THINK AGAIN, THAT THAT IS ONE OF THOSE "IFY" QUESTIONS THAT WE HAVE BEEN THROUGH BEFORE. THERE IS A MORE COMPLETE FORMULATION, OBVIOUSLY OF WHAT OUR POSITION UNCLASSIFIED

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IS, ON WHAT IS REQUIRED; BUT THE ACCEPTANCE OF 242 IS BASIC -- AND ITS ENABLING RESOLUTION -- AND BEYOND THAT, IMPLICIT IN IT THEREFORE, ALSO HAS TO BE RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST. BUT THAT'S AN OLD FORMULATION -- WE HAVEN'T CHANGED THAT.

Q. BUT YOU ARE NOT MENTIONING ANYTHING ABOUT 242 ANYMORE.

A. OUR POSITION ON 242 IS UNCHANGED. IT IS CLEAR, AND WE BELIEVE IT IS A WELL UNDERSTOOD POSITION AND ACCEPTED BY MOST NATIONS IN THE WORLD.

Q. AT THE OUTSET, YOU SAID THAT ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF THE DISCUSSIONS GOING ON NOW WAS TO DEVELOP IDEAS WHICH COULD BE INTRODUCED INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS. YOU NEGLECTED TO SAY WHETHER YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT AMERICAN IDEAS OR DEVELOPING EGYPTIAN IDEAS, OR OTHERS?

A. I WOULD STEER AWAY FROM AMERICAN IDEAS BEING DEVELOPED AND INTERJECTED RIGHT NOW.

Q. DEVELOP SOME EGYPTIAN IDEAS NOW, TO INTRODUCE INTO THE DISCUSSIONS? IS THAT IT?

A. IDEAS FROM THE PARTIES. YES.

Q. THIS PHRASE INTRIGUES ME. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS "INTRODUCED INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS.: AFTER ALL, YOU HAVE HAD ALL KINDS OF IDEAS FROM EGYPT BEFORE -- THEY ARE "NOT INTRODUCIBLE?"

A. I THINK THAT OBVIOUSLY, IF WHAT THE PARTIES HAVE PUT FORWARD UP TO NOW WERE USABLE, THEY WOULD BE BEING USED.
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WE KNOW THAT YOU DON'T THINK THE ISRAELI IDEAS ARE SUFFICIENT. BUT NOW YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT EGYPTIAN IDEAS THAT CAN BE INTRODUCED WHICH WOULD LEAD ME TO BELIEVE THAT WHATEVER YOU HAD READ FROM THE EGYPTIANS UP TO NOW, CANNOT BE INTRODUCED EITHER, BECAUSE IT'S NOT SUFFICIENT, OR BECAUSE THEY DON'T ALLOW YOU TO INTRODUCE THEM.

A. NO, THAT IS VERY WELL DONE, BUT I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO CARRY THAT WITH YOU. I AM SIMPLY SAYING THAT WE ARE CONTINUING TO TALK WITH THE VIEW TOWARD DEVELOPING IDEAS WHICH COULD BE INTRODUCED. YOU WILL HAVE TO DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS AS TO WHAT THAT MEANS.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. THAT POSSIBILITY CONTINUES TO BE THERE. I HAVE NO TRIP BEING SET.

Q. JUST TO WORK OUT FURTHER ON SCHEDULES, ARE THERE ANY PLANS FOR A MEETING WITH THE MIDDLE EASTERN FOREIGN MINISTERS IN EUROPE ON OR ABOUT THE TIME OF THE BONN SUMMIT?

A. WE DO NOT HAVE ANY TRIPS SET, AGREED TO, OR LAID DOWN AS BEING A REALITY. THE POSSIBILITY OF TRIPS REMAINS AS

I HAVE SAID IN THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS, A REAL ONE. BUT WHAT IS ALSO REAL, IS THAT THERE IS NO TIME SET FOR SUCH A POSSIBILITY.

2. THE FOLLOWING IS ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN AT THE NOON BRIEFING JUNE 20 AND POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT:

Q. ARE WE NOW TALKING TO THE JORDANIANS AND OTHERS ABOUT THE ISRAELI REPLIES AND THE PEACE PROCESS?
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A. WE ARE IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. I DO NOT WISH, HOWEVER, TO CHARACTERIZE THE SUBJECT MATTER OF INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS.

WE ARE ALSO IN TOUCH, AS APPROPRIATE, WITH OTHER ARAB
STATES AND CONCERNED GOVERNMENTS OUTSIDE THE AREA ON THIS
SUBJECT.

VANCE

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED ALGIERS

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